

Weekly Current Affairs 13th May to 18th May 2024 - English**National News****Bharat Pavilion Unveiled at the 77th Cannes Film Festival**

Inauguration of the Bharat Pavilion, formerly known as the India Pavilion, marked a significant moment at the 77th Cannes Film Festival. The renaming reflects India's commitment to traditional storytelling while seeking global collaborations.

Special Commemorative Coin Released on MDL Shipyard 250th Anniversary

Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane unveiled a commemorative Rs 250 coin during the celebration of the 250th anniversary of Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL) in New Delhi on May 14, 2024. The event, hosted by MDL, commemorated its evolution from a dry dock in 1774 to a premier naval shipyard under the Ministry of Defence.

IndiaSkills 2024: Unveiling India's Premier Skill Competition

The grand commencement of IndiaSkills 2024 took place at Yashobhoomi, Dwarka, New Delhi on 15 May 2024. Over the span of four days, this esteemed competition will assess the proficiency of students across 61 diverse categories, providing a platform for showcasing talent at both national and international levels.

IMD Issues 'Severe Heatwave' Alert for Northern India from May 18-20

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a forecast warning of a severe heatwave covering parts of northern India, including Punjab and Delhi, from May 18-20. With temperatures expected to soar, the region braces for scorching heat conditions that could reach up to 45 degrees Celsius in the national capital.

Southwest Monsoon to Reach Kerala Around May 31

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted that the annual southwest monsoon is likely to reach Kerala around May 31, marking the onset of the rainy season in the region. This announcement comes amidst anticipation and preparation for the arrival of the monsoon across the country. The department expects the country to receive 106% of the long period average rainfall, which is the mean rainfall during the four-month monsoon season over the last 50 years.

International News**Russia's Controversial Oil and Gas Discovery in British Antarctic Territory**

In a development that has raised eyebrows globally, Russia has claimed to have discovered massive oil and gas reserves in the British Antarctic Territory, a region currently protected under the 1959 Antarctic Treaty. According to evidence submitted to the Commons Environment Audit Committee, the reserves uncovered by Russian research ships contain around 511 billion barrels worth of oil, a staggering amount equivalent to approximately 10 times the North Sea's output over the last 50 years.

China Overtakes US as India's Largest Trading Partner in FY24

According to data from the Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI), an economic think tank, China has emerged as India's largest trading partner in the fiscal year 2023-24, surpassing the United States. The two-way commerce between India and China stood at a staggering \$118.4 billion, slightly edging out the \$118.3 billion traded with the US.

China's Industrial Output Rises 6.7% in April as Manufacturing Gathers Pace

China's industrial output grew by 6.7% year-on-year in April, a significant increase from the 4.5% growth recorded in March. This robust growth, as reported by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on Friday, exceeded analysts' expectations of a 5.5% rise, indicating a strengthening recovery in the manufacturing sector.

India's Growing Economic Prospects vs. China: UN Expert's Insights

In a recent briefing on the mid-year update of the World Economic Situation and Prospects 2024, a UN expert highlighted India's burgeoning economic performance compared to China. India's GDP growth projections for 2024 have been revised upwards, with a forecasted expansion of close to seven percent. The expert attributed India's economic success to various factors, including increased investments from Western companies and favorable import arrangements with Russia.

Indonesia Evacuates Hundreds Near Erupting Volcano

Hundreds of residents near Mount Ibu, an active volcano on Halmahera island in eastern Indonesia, have been evacuated following a significant increase in volcanic activity. Authorities raised the alert status to the highest level after two consecutive days of massive eruptions, prompting precautionary measures to ensure the safety of local communities.

India and Britain Reaffirm Commitment to FTA at Annual Strategic Dialogue

India and the UK have reaffirmed their commitment to concluding a mutually beneficial Free Trade Agreement (FTA) during the annual UK-India Strategic Dialogue in London. This marks a significant step as the two nations have already conducted 13 rounds of talks, with the 14th round commencing in January 2024. The discussions also reviewed progress on the 2030 Roadmap, established in 2021 to enhance cooperation in various sectors.

India Risks US Sanctions Over Chabahar Port Deal with Iran

India has signed a 10-year agreement to develop and operate Iran's strategic Chabahar Port to strengthen trade ties with Central Asia and Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan. However, this deal faces potential US sanctions, complicating New Delhi's strategic objectives.

State News

Meghalaya Gets first woman police chief

Meghalaya has made history by appointing Idashisha Nongrang as the state's first woman Director General of Police (DGP). Nongrang, a 1992 batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, will succeed Lajja Ram Bishnoi, who is set to retire on May 19, 2024.

Tamil Nadu's Shyaamnikhil Becomes India's 85th Chess Grandmaster

In a remarkable achievement, P Shyaamnikhil from Tamil Nadu has etched his name in the annals of Indian chess history by becoming the country's 85th Grandmaster (GM). The 31-year-old chess prodigy, who embarked on his journey at the tender age of eight, finally secured the coveted third and final GM norm at the prestigious 2024 Dubai Police Masters Chess Tournament.

Indian Literary Masterpieces Inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Register

In a proud moment for India, three of its literary treasures – the Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, and Sahrdayaloka-Locana – have been inscribed on UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register. This prestigious recognition celebrates India's rich literary heritage and cultural legacy, affirming the timeless wisdom and artistic expressions that have shaped the nation's identity.

Economy News

Wholesale Inflation Hits 13-Month High: Food and Fuel Surge

In April, wholesale inflation in India soared to a 13-month high of 1.26%, up from 0.53% in March. This surge was primarily fueled by rising prices of food articles, particularly vegetables, and a year-on-year increase of 1.4% in fuel and power costs after months of deflation.

Moody's Forecasts Indian Economy to Expand at 6.6% in FY25

Moody's Ratings predicts a 6.6% expansion for the Indian economy in the fiscal year ending March 2025 (FY25). This growth trajectory is anticipated to fuel strong credit demand, particularly benefiting the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), despite challenges posed by rising funding costs.

India's Urban Unemployment Rate Declines to 6.7% in March Quarter

The 22nd Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) conducted by the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) revealed that the unemployment rate among individuals aged 15 years and above in urban areas of India decreased to 6.7% in the January-March 2024 period. The survey offers insights into various labor force indicators, including unemployment rate, worker population ratio (WPR), and labor force participation rate (LFPR) based on the Current Weekly Status (CWS) approach.

LIC Granted 3-Year Extension by Sebi to Achieve 10% Public Shareholding

In a move aimed at granting additional time to Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India to meet regulatory requirements, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has extended LIC's deadline to achieve a minimum 10% public shareholding. LIC, a state-owned insurance giant, now has until May 16, 2027, to fulfill this obligation.

UN Revises India's 2024 Economic Growth Projection Upwards to Nearly 7%

The United Nations has revised India's economic growth forecast for 2024, projecting a robust expansion driven by strong public investment and resilient private consumption. India's economy is now expected to grow by 6.9% in 2024, up from the 6.2% forecast in January, with a 6.6% growth rate projected for 2025. This optimistic outlook highlights India's role in bolstering South Asia's overall economic performance.

India's Internet Economy Likely to Reach \$1 Trillion by 2030: Experts

India's internet economy is poised for significant growth, with industry experts predicting it will reach \$1 trillion by 2030. This surge is primarily driven by the e-commerce sector, which is expected to grow at an annual rate of 25%, from \$60 billion in FY2023 to \$325 billion, making it the third largest globally.

GST Portal Implements Machine Registration for Pan Masala and Tobacco Manufacturers to Curb Evasion

In an effort to combat tax evasion in the pan masala and tobacco sectors, the GST portal has introduced new forms and procedures for manufacturers to register their machinery and report monthly inputs and outputs. This initiative follows recommendations from the GST Council and aims to enhance compliance and reduce illicit trade.

Outlook for India's Export Growth in FY25: FIEO Projections

The Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) forecasts India's merchandise exports to reach \$500-510 billion in FY25, rebounding from a 3% contraction in the previous fiscal year. Services exports are estimated to contribute \$390-400 billion, culminating in total exports of approximately \$890-910 billion. Noteworthy sectors driving this growth include engineering, advertising services, and the expansion of global capability centers.

Expanding Economic Frontiers: DP World's Inauguration of Chennai's Free Trade Warehouse Zone

DP World, a global logistics powerhouse, has launched its largest free trade warehouse zone in Chennai, India, solidifying Tamil Nadu's status as one of the nation's premier hubs for economic development. Ranjit Ray, DP World's Vice President of Economic Zones for India Subcontinent and MENA, highlighted Tamil Nadu's industrial prowess and strategic geographic advantages, emphasizing its pivotal role in fostering economic growth. The inauguration of the Chennai facility marks a significant milestone, showcasing DP World's commitment to India's burgeoning economic landscape.

Indian Port Cargo Projection for FY25 and Beyond

In a recent report by CateEdge Ratings, it is forecasted that container volume at Indian ports will surge by 8% to reach 342 million tonnes in the fiscal year 2025, despite potential disruptions such as the ongoing Red Sea crisis. This growth trajectory is attributed to various factors, including the scheduled connection of the dedicated freight corridor to Jawaharlal Nehru Port in FY26 and capacity expansions across ports.

India, UAE Conclude Meeting on India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

India and the UAE recently concluded a significant meeting focused on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). The meeting, held under the Intergovernmental Framework Agreement, aimed at enhancing cooperation for the development and operationalization of the corridor. This initiative is set to provide alternative supply routes, generating efficiencies and reducing costs.

Government-Backed ONDC Attracts 10 Unicorns and 125 Startups

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), backed by the government, has garnered significant interest from key players in India's digital ecosystem. Among the 125 startups committed to the platform are renowned unicorns like Zerodha, EaseMyTrip, and Cars24, signaling a strong push towards democratizing digital commerce.

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves Jump \$2.56 Billion to \$644.15 Billion

India's foreign exchange reserves saw an increase of \$2.56 billion, reaching a total of \$644.15 billion for the week ended May 10, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). This follows a previous increase of \$3.668 billion after three consecutive weeks of decline.

Business News**Hero MotoCorp Joins ONDC Network to Revolutionize Two-Wheeler Industry**

In a groundbreaking move, Hero MotoCorp, India's leading two-wheeler manufacturer, has become the first in its sector to integrate with the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC). By leveraging ONDC's platform, Hero MotoCorp aims to enhance accessibility and convenience for its customers, offering a seamless digital experience for purchasing two-wheeler parts, accessories, and merchandise.

DPIIT Reports Over 7 Million Transactions on ONDC Platform in April

The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), a digital infrastructure initiative launched in 2021, has witnessed remarkable growth, with transactions crossing 70 lakh in April this year. Led by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), ONDC aims to democratize digital commerce and create a level playing field for businesses of all sizes. Let's explore the key highlights and significance of ONDC through subheadings.

Coal India, NMDC, ONGC Videsh Seek Overseas Critical Mineral Assets

The Indian government has announced plans for public sector companies like Coal India, NMDC, and ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) to actively seek critical mineral assets overseas. This strategic move aims to secure vital mineral resources essential for various industries, including clean energy technologies and electric vehicles.

Banking News**Public Sector Banks' Profit Surpasses ₹1.4 Lakh Crore in FY24**

In the financial year ending March 2024, the cumulative profit of public sector banks (PSBs) surged, reaching over ₹1.4 lakh crore, marking a significant 35% increase from the previous year's earnings of ₹1.04 lakh crore. State Bank of India (SBI) emerged as a major contributor, accounting for over 40% of the total earnings.

RBI Gold Holdings and Foreign Exchange Reserves Update

In the fiscal year 2023-24, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) saw a significant increase in its gold reserves, adding 27.46 metric tonnes and reaching a total of 822.10 metric tonnes by the end of March 2024. This brought the share of gold in the total foreign exchange reserves to about 8.15%, up from 7.81% in the previous year.

RBI Approves Quant MF to Raise Stake in RBL Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to Quant Mutual Fund (MF) to increase its stake in RBL Bank to 9.98% by May 12, 2025. This approval, subject to conditions and provisions under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, was disclosed in a regulatory filing.

HDFC Bank Introduces Pixel Play: India's Premier Virtual Credit Card with Visa

In a groundbreaking move, HDFC Bank has rolled out Pixel Play, the nation's inaugural virtual credit card partnered with Visa. Offering two distinct variants, Pixel Play and Pixel Go, this innovative card empowers users to craft personalized cards tailored to their lifestyle preferences and chosen merchants, all through the bank's PayZapp mobile app. With streamlined digital management and a suite of features including card controls, rewards, and EMI dashboards, HDFC Bank sets a new standard for seamless banking experiences.

RBI Bond Repurchase: Banks Refuse Losses, Repurchased Amount Significantly Below Notified

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) repurchased government bonds worth only Rs 2,069 crore out of the notified Rs 60,000 crore. Banks resisted selling at lower prices, resulting in limited acceptance. The bonds, purchased during the pandemic at higher rates, posed a challenge for the RBI, prompting smaller buyback amounts.

SBI Raises Short-Term Retail Fixed Deposit Rates Amidst Economic Shifts

In response to rising credit demand and falling liquidity, State Bank of India (SBI) has increased short-term retail fixed deposit rates by 25-75 basis points (bps), marking its first interest rate hike since December. This move, likely to be emulated by other banks, reflects a strategic adjustment to offer better returns for depositors.

Agreement News**PhonePe Launches UPI in Sri Lanka in Partnership with LankaPay**

In a significant move, PhonePe has joined forces with LankaPay to introduce UPI payments in Sri Lanka. This collaboration allows PhonePe users to seamlessly utilize UPI for transactions across LankaPay QR merchants, providing them with familiarity and security while traveling. The partnership aims to enhance the payment experience for Indian tourists and business travelers in Sri Lanka, while also offering a cost-effective solution for merchants. The initiative received commendation from key figures including PhonePe's CEO, Ritesh Pai, LankaPay CEO Channa de Silva, and Sri Lankan Central Bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe.

Appointment News**N Chandrasekaran to Chair Tata Electronics**

Tata Sons chairman N Chandrasekaran is set to assume the role of chairman at Tata Electronics, a significant move that underscores the Tata group's commitment to its \$14 billion investment in the semiconductor business. Chandrasekaran will succeed Banmali Agrawala, who has held the position for several years and has recently taken on an advisory role within the group.

Dileep Sanghani Elected As Chairman Of IFFCO

The Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has successfully conducted its 15th RGB elections for its Board of Directors, marking a remarkable milestone in cooperative governance. This massive exercise, spanning over two months, encompassed participation from more than 36,000 cooperative societies across the nation.

Wipro Appoints Vinay Firake as CEO of APMEA Strategic Market Unit

Wipro, a leading IT major, has announced the appointment of Vinay Firake as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of its Asia Pacific, India, Middle East, and Africa (APMEA) strategic market unit (SMU), effective immediately. Firake will report directly to Srinu Pallia, Wipro's CEO and Managing Director, and will also join the company's executive board.

Kapil Sibal Elected as the President of Supreme Court Bar Association

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal has been elected as the president of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) in a recent election held on Thursday in New Delhi. This marks his fourth term serving as the president of the prestigious lawyers' body, succeeding senior advocate Adish C. Aggarwala.

Senior IPS Officers A.Y.V. Krishna & N. Venu Gopal Appointed as Additional Directors in CBI

In a significant development, senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers A Y V Krishna and N Venu Gopal have been appointed as additional directors in the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Their appointments underscore the government's commitment to bolstering the investigative capabilities of the premier investigative agency.

Science & Technology News**NASA and JAXA Forge Ahead with XRISM Despite Instrument Glitch**

NASA and the Japanese Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) have decided to operate an instrument on the X-ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission (XRISM) satellite as-is for at least the next year and a half, despite encountering an issue affecting one of its instruments. This decision showcases the agencies' determination to push forward with this groundbreaking X-ray astronomy mission.

Microsoft's AI and Cloud Boost: €4 Billion Investment in France

In a move that underscores its commitment to artificial intelligence (AI) and cloud computing, tech giant Microsoft Corp. has announced plans to invest a staggering €4 billion (approximately \$4.3 billion) in building cloud and AI infrastructure in France. This latest investment highlights the company's continued focus on advancing its AI capabilities and expanding its cloud services globally.

TCS Unveils Global AI Centre of Excellence in France

In a significant move, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has announced the creation of a Global Artificial Intelligence (AI) Centre of Excellence in the French capital, Paris. The announcement was made during the prestigious "Choose France Summit" hosted by President Emmanuel Macron, underscoring TCS's commitment to the French market and the global AI landscape.

NASA Appoints New Chief for Artificial Intelligence

NASA has given a new role to David Salvagnini as the agency's Chief Artificial Intelligence (AI) Officer. This is an addition to his current job as Chief Data Officer. The appointment shows NASA's commitment to using AI technology responsibly.

Mangalyaan-2 Unveiled: India Set to Become the Third Nation to Land on Mars

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for a landmark mission that aims to land a rover and helicopter on Mars. This historic endeavor, named Mangalyaan-2, seeks to place India alongside the US and China as a significant player in interplanetary exploration. The project was unveiled during a presentation at the Space Application Centre on National Technology Day.

Awards & Honors News**Dr. Soumya Swaminathan Honoured with Honorary Doctorate by McGill University**

Dr. Soumya Swaminathan, a globally renowned leader in public health and infectious diseases, has been named among the 10 exceptional individuals to receive an honorary degree from Canada's prestigious McGill University during the Spring 2024 Convocation ceremonies.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited's CMD Cmde Hemant Khatri Honored with 'PSU Samarpan Award'

In a prestigious ceremony held in New Delhi, Cmde Hemant Khatri, the Chairman and Managing Director (C&MD) of Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL), was bestowed with the esteemed 'PSU Samarpan Award' by Gov Connect. The award recognizes Khatri's outstanding leadership and his pivotal role in driving the transformation of the shipyard, inspiring countless individuals within the industry.

Chandrakant Satija Honoured with Global Excellence Award 2024

In a prestigious ceremony held at the Sahara Star Hotel in Mumbai on May 12th, Chandrakant Satija, the renowned educationist and Founder/CEO of Chandra Admission Consultants, was honoured with the Global Excellence Award 2024. The award, presented by the famous Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra, recognized Satija as the Most Trusted Admissions Consultant in the Vidarbha Region.

Ruskin Bond Awarded Prestigious Sahitya Akademi Fellowship

In a momentous occasion, the eminent author Ruskin Bond has been bestowed with the Sahitya Akademi Fellowship, the highest honour conferred by India's premier literary organization, the Sahitya Akademi. Due to Bond's ill health, the prestigious award was presented to him at his Mussoorie home by Sahitya Akademi President Madhav Kaushik and Secretary K. Sreenivasarao, in the presence of his son.

Important Dates News**International Nurses Day 2024 Observed on 12th May**

Every year on 12 May, the world observes International Nurses Day to honor the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale, the pioneer of modern nursing. This day serves as a tribute to the selfless dedication and vital contributions of nurses worldwide. Florence Nightingale, born on 12 May 1820 in Florence, Italy, was a British nurse and social reformer. Her unwavering compassion and tireless efforts during the Crimean War (1853-56) earned her the legendary title of "Lady with the Lamp."

International Day of Plant Health 2024 Observed on 12th May

The International Day of Plant Health (IDPH) is observed annually on 12 May to raise awareness about the critical importance of protecting plant health. This global initiative aims to prevent hunger, reduce poverty, safeguard biodiversity, and promote economic development worldwide. This year, the International Day of Plant Health falls on Sunday, 12 May 2024, coinciding with Mother's Day, an event that recognizes the love, care, and sacrifices of mothers.

International Day of Families 2024 Observed on May 15th

Every year on May 15th, we celebrate the International Day of Families. It's a special day to recognize how essential families are in our society. The United Nations established this day in 1994 to help people understand why families matter, what challenges they might face, and to encourage people to come together in support.

International Day of Living Together in Peace 2024

The International Day of Living Together in Peace is an annual observance held on 16 May every year. Established by the United Nations General Assembly, this day aims to support global efforts in promoting peace, unity, and solidarity among nations and individuals.

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day 2024 Observed on May 17th

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day, observed annually on May 17, celebrates the transformative impact of telecommunication and information technology on global connectivity and development. As we commemorate this special day in 2024, it's essential to reflect on its significance, theme, historical roots, and the pressing issues it addresses.

International Museum Day 2024, Observed On May 18th

International Museum Day, celebrated annually on May 18th in the world to raise public awareness of the invaluable role museums play in preserving artistic, cultural, and historical artifacts. This day highlights the educational and cultural contributions of museums, showcasing their importance as repositories of knowledge and history. Let's delve into the details of International Museum Day 2024, exploring its date, history, theme, significance, and celebrations.

World's AIDS Vaccine Day 2024

World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed annually on May 18th. This day is dedicated to raising awareness about the urgent need for AIDS vaccines and acknowledging the efforts of individuals, including doctors, scientists, and community members, who are committed to developing vaccines to combat HIV/AIDS.

Sports News**Neeraj Chopra Kicks Off 2024 Season with Silver at Doha Diamond League**

Neeraj Chopra, the reigning Olympic and world champion in javelin throw, started his 2024 season on a strong note, securing a second-place finish at the Doha Diamond League 2024. Chopra's impressive throw of 88.36m on his final attempt fell just 2cm short of Czechia's Jakub Vadlejch, the reigning Diamond League champion and Tokyo 2020 silver medalist.

Jorge Martin wins 2024 French MotoGP

In a showcase of electrifying motorcycle racing, Jorge Martin of Pramac Ducati emerged victorious in the nail-biting 2024 French MotoGP. The Spaniard fended off fierce challenges from Marc Marquez and Francesco Bagnaia to claim the top spot on the podium, extending his lead in the championship standings.

Japan Wins Maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Trophy

Japanese men's hockey team etched its name in the history books by clinching its maiden Sultan Azlan Shah Trophy title. The match against Pakistan ended in a 2-2 deadlock after regulation time, leading to a penalty shootout. Japan emerged victorious, defeating Pakistan 4-1 in the nerve-racking shootout at the Azlan Shah Stadium in Ipoh, Malaysia, on 11 May 2024.

Magnus Carlsen's Incredible Comeback Wins 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland

In a display of sheer dominance, World No. 1 Magnus Carlsen pulled off an incredible comeback to claim victory at the 2024 Superbet Rapid & Blitz Poland. Despite starting the day trailing by 2.5 points behind GM Wei Yi, Carlsen embarked on a remarkable 10-game winning streak, ultimately overtaking his rival and securing the championship title.

United Nations Declares May 25 as World Football Day

In a historic move, the United Nations General Assembly has unanimously proclaimed May 25 as the World Football Day, marking a significant milestone in the global celebration of the world's most popular sport. The resolution, adopted during the 80th plenary meeting of the General Assembly in New York, coincides with the 100th anniversary of the first international football tournament with representation from all regions – the 1924 Summer Olympic Games held in Paris.

Sunil Chhetri Announces Retirement from International Football

Sunil Chhetri, India's most decorated footballer, has announced his retirement from international football. The FIFA World Cup Qualifier game against Kuwait in Kolkata on June 6 will be his last appearance for the national team.

Obituaries News**Punjabi Poet and Writer Surjit Patar Passes Away at 79**

The literary world mourns the loss of Surjit Patar, a renowned Punjabi poet, writer, and Padma Shri recipient, who passed away in Ludhiana, Punjab, at the age of 79.

Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro dies at 92

The literary world mourns the loss of Alice Munro, the Nobel Prize-winning author renowned for her masterful crafting of short stories. Munro, who passed away on May 13 at the age of 92, left an indelible mark with her taut and acutely observed narratives, which captured the essence of human nature with remarkable clarity.

Veteran Congress Leader and Former Governor Kamla Beniwal Passes Away at 97

The Indian political landscape mourns the loss of a pioneering figure, Kamla Beniwal, who breathed her last on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at the age of 97. Beniwal, a veteran Congress leader and former governor of Gujarat, Tripura, and Mizoram, left an indelible mark on the nation's political arena with her unwavering commitment and decades-long service.

Former Indian Army Officer Killed in Gaza Attack

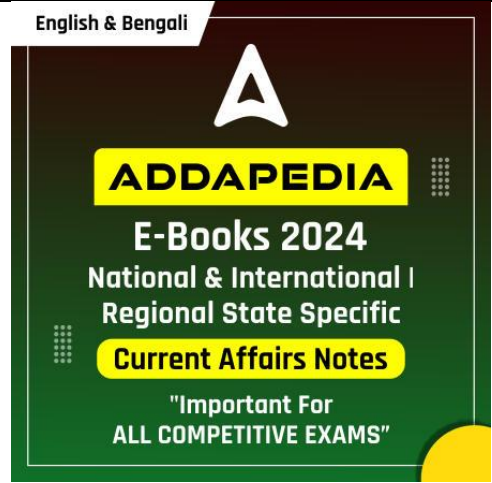
The ongoing conflict in Gaza has claimed the life of Colonel (Retd.) Waibhav Anil Kale, a former Indian Army officer who was serving as a staff member of the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS) in the region. The tragic incident occurred on May 13, 2024, when Kale's vehicle came under attack in Rafah, Gaza, marking the first international casualty since the latest escalation of hostilities between Israel and Hamas.

Defence News**Indian Air Force Tests BHISHM Portable Hospital for Airdrop in Agra**

The Indian Air Force recently conducted a test in Agra for the BHISHM portable hospital, a crucial component of "Project BHISHM" aimed at providing rapid and comprehensive medical assistance during emergencies. These portable cubes, part of a broader initiative, can cater to up to 200 casualties, emphasizing swift response and extensive care.

Indian Army Set to Receive Russian Igla-S Air Defence Systems

The Indian Army is poised to elevate its air defense capabilities with the impending delivery of the Russian Igla-S Very Short Range Air Defense (VSHORAD) systems. This acquisition, featuring a technology transfer agreement between Adani Defence Systems and Technologies Limited (ADSTL) and Russia's Rosoboronexport, represents a significant advancement in India's defense preparedness.



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